

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

--The invention is to be explained in more detail below with the aid of exemplary embodiments. In the drawing:

Figure 1 shows a circuit diagram of an operating device for a gas discharge lamp,

Figure 2 shows plot of phase angle as a function of technical frequency,

Figure 3 shows a circuit diagram of an operating device for a gas discharge lamp with disconnection according to the invention in the event of breakage of one of the two filaments, with the aid of phase detection, and

Figure 4 shows a circuit diagram of an operating device for a gas discharge lamp with disconnection according to the invention by means of an optocoupler, in the event of breakage of one of the two filaments.--